



Escalon Police Department

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Mike Harden, Interim Chief of Police



Crime Prevention - Personal Safety

Be Prepared

Be alert and aware of the people around you. Educate yourself on prevention tactics. Be aware of situations and locations that could make you vulnerable to crime (dark parking lots, areas with dense shrubbery, etc.). These tips are offered for your protection so you do not take unnecessary risks that could put you in danger. By taking a few simple precautions, you can reduce the risk to yourself and also discourage those who commit crimes.

Sexual Assault

- About one-third of sexual assaults occur in the victim's home.
- About 40 percent of sexual assaults are committed by persons known to the victims such as dates, acquaintances, neighbors, co-workers, or even spouses.
- Rapes also occur on the streets, in schoolyards, and in parking lots. Be alert to your surroundings and the people around you.
- Call your local rape crisis center to sign up for prevention and self-defense classes.
- Many strategies are involved with rape avoidance. Studies show a combination of screaming,
- physical resistance and fleeing is most effective.

On the Street

- Be aware of your surroundings and the people around you – especially if you are alone.
- Walk confidently at a steady pace. Be alert. Notice who passes you and who is behind you.
- Make eye contact with people when walking.
- When possible, travel with a friend.
- Walk in well-lit areas. Don't walk near bushes, alleys, etc.
- Wear clothes and shoes that give you freedom of movement.
- Don't overburden yourself with bags or packages that might make running difficult.
- Hold your purse tightly, close to your body. Keep your wallet in a front or buttoned hip pocket or inside coat pocket.
- Carry as little cash as possible. Carry a whistle, personal alarm, or pepper spray.
- Don't hitchhike.
- If a car stops you for directions or information, always reply from a safe distance. Never get too close to the car.
- If a car persists in bothering you, cross the street and walk or run in the opposite direction.
- If you feel someone is following you, turn around and check. Proceed to the nearest lit house or place of business.
- If you feel you are in danger, do not be afraid to yell loudly and run.

Babysitting Safety

- Always post emergency numbers, home phone number, and address by the telephone for your babysitter's immediate information.
- Leave a number where you can be reached and other information the sitter might need.

Safety for Senior Citizens

- Have social security or retirement checks sent directly to your checking or savings account.
- Beware of get-rich-quick scams or persons who ask you to give them large sums of money. If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.
- Be wary of good deals on expensive home repair or home improvements.

Telephone Safety

- Keep all emergency numbers near the telephone.
- Do not give information about yourself to strangers over the telephone or admit that you are alone.
- Consider listing your name and number in the telephone book without your address. Also, list only the initial of your first name.
- If you receive an obscene call, hang up immediately.

Car Safety

- Always lock your car doors even when you will be gone for only a few minutes.
- Lock your doors when driving.
- Park in well-lit areas, and observe your surroundings when you leave your car at night.
- Always have your car and house keys in hand so you will not have to fumble for them.
- Always check the back seat before entering your car.
- Keep your car in good working condition.
- If your car breaks down, use distress signals such as putting the hood up, putting a white flag on the aerial, or setting your emergency flashers. Remain in the car with the doors locked. Wait for the police or ask anyone who does stop to send a tow truck or the police. Be wary of accepting help from strangers.
- If you are followed by another car, honk your horn all the way to the nearest gas station, police, or fire station, or lit home.
- If someone threatens you while you are in your car, lock all doors, and blow the horn in short bursts to attract attention.
- Do not pick up hitchhikers.